**Driver Education**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor: Josh Rasmussen**

**Summer 2009 Session**

**Class sessions**: There will be 10 classes. Each class will be 180 minutes in length beginning at 7:00 and 10:00.

**Outline of Class Sessions (subject to change)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Class 1: Introduction- Ch.3 | Class 3: Basic car maneuvers-Ch.6 | Class 7: Rural driving- Ch.10 |
| Class 1: You the driver-Ch.1 | Class 4: ABATE presentation | Class 8: Interstate driving-Ch. 11 |
| Class 2: Signs, signals-Ch.2 | Class 5: Intersections-Ch.7 | Class 9: Adverse weather- Ch. 12 |
| Class 2: IPDE- Ch.4 | Class 6: Sharing the roadway-Ch 8 | Class 9: Emergencies- Ch. 13 |
|  | Class 6: Urban driving-Ch. 9 | Class 10: Final |

**Materials needed for each class session:** Writing utensils (pen and pencil), 3 ring binder to keep notes and assignments in, and textbook.

Driving Sessions: Each student will have 6 driving lessons with each student driving 60 minutes during the lesson. Students will be in groups of 3 for driving, so each driving session will last a total of three hours. Each student will spend a total of 60 minutes behind the wheel and 120 minutes observing during the session. Students must present their valid instruction permit each time they drive. Any student who cannot present their permit will not be allowed to drive. Forgetting your permit will count as a missed driving time.

**Materials needed for driving sessions:** Bring your binder for notes, pen/pencil, glasses/contacts, and your instruction permit. No hats are allowed while driving in the car.

**Attendance**

• Students will be allowed one class session absence as long as the work missed is made up. An additional activity may be assigned as well. A second absence will result in dismissal from the class. One make up class will be offered for those who have missed a class.

• Missing a driving session presents a serious problem for you and the other students in your group. If you must miss a driving session, notify the instructor and find a replacement driver for your drive time. This goes for all extra-curricular activities. If you do not notify the instructor you may be dismissed from the class. The driver may be reinstated if they pay $10 in the office before they drive the next day. If they miss driving a second time, the student will be dropped from the class and no money will be refunded.

•One tardy to class will be excused but a second tardy will count as an absence. Habitual tardiness will result in dismissal from the class.

**Grading**

Students will be scored on a variety of activities, both in the classroom and in the car. Each activity will be assigned a point value. A weighted grading system will be used with each category of activities receiving the following weights:

Driving- Pass/Fail, you must pass the driving portion to pass the class.

Chapter Tests-45%

Assignments-45%

Final Exam-10%

Students must pass both the class and the driving. Failure to pass in one or both will result in taking both over.

**Description of activities**

Driving: Each drive will be scored. Students will have to receive 325 of the 468 possible points to pass the driving portion of driver education. If a student earns 420 points or more, they will receive 10% grade advancement in the classroom portion of driver’s education.

Chapter tests will be worth 25 points each.

Assignments will include activities from the text, worksheets, article reviews, a defensive driving paper, driving observation notes, outside driving log, and other activities as assigned.

Final Exam will consist of test items similar to what has appeared on the chapter tests.

**The following grade cutoffs will be used:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A+ = 100 | A >= 93 | A->=90 |
| B+ >= 87 | B >= 83 | B- >= 80 |
| C+ >= 77 | C >= 73 | C- >= 70 |
| D+ >= 67 | D >= 63 | D- >= 60 |
| F < 60 |  |  |

The student will be required to have a 70% or higher in the classroom, and a “pass” in the six hours of driving time to pass driver’s education.

**Expectations for behavior**

One simple rule: Your behavior should not interfere with your or your classmates’ ability to learn or the instructor’s ability to teach. The skills and knowledge learned in this class could literally be a matter of life or death. If you cannot behave in a manner that shows your respect for the seriousness of the driving task then you will be dismissed this class.

A student who is dismissed from class for attendance or behavior reasons will not have their fee refunded.

The student will also be dropped from the class if he or she abuses any of the following with no refund: Driving permit, moped license, attendance, school rules, classroom disruption, and vehicle abuse.

**Sample driving Log**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** | **Destination or location** | **Day or Night** | **Total** |
| 4/11 | 9:00-10:00 | Council Bluffs | Day | 1 hr |
| 4/12 | 9:00-9:30 | Harlan | Day | 30 min |
| 4/13 | 10:00-11:00 | High school parking lot | Day | 1 hr |
|  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |

**Helpful Web Links**

Guide for Parents of new drivers - <http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ods/coach.pdf>

Iowa Driver’s Manual- <http://www.iamvd.com/ods/dlmanual.htm>

Graduated Driver License- <http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ods/gdl.htm>

Iowa Minor School License**-** <http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ods/msl.htm>

Drive Right Home Page- <http://tinyurl.com/drivehelp>

EHK, Exira, Driver Education Home Page- <http://ehkexirade.wikispaces.com/>

**Driver Ed Assignments**

**6 Article Reviews (10 pts each) Due date: July 20.**

You will be responsible for finding 6 articles relevant to a Driver Education class. These might be about accidents, issues related to driving, legislation, etc. The articles should be accompanied by a summary and reflection that is at least half a page long if typed (Font: Calibri, Size: 12 pt, double spaced) or one page long if hand written. Summarize the key ideas of the article and reflect on how it is relevant to you as a Driver Education student. What lesson(s) can be learned from the article? The articles and written reviews should be organized in a section in your 3-ringbinder.

**Defensive Driving Paper (50 pts) Due date: July 22.**

In this paper you will define and explain defensive driving. Give examples and explain the benefits of defensive driving. How does defensive driving make you a better driver? You may use some of the examples from your driving log to write your paper. (Font: Calibri, Size: 12 pt, double spaced) If you obtain 10 defensive driving points in driver’s education, you will not have to write this paper. We will go over this in class.

**Driving observation notes (20 pts) Due date: After final drive.**

When you aren’t behind the wheel you are responsible for observing the student driving and taking notes. Included in these notes should be observations about things the driver did right or wrong as well as any important points and observations made by the instructor. These notes should be organized in a section in your 3-ring binder.

**Outside Driving Log (20 pts) Due date**: **July 22.**

You will be expected to log 6 hours of driving time outside of class with your parent/guardian or another qualified adult. A log form will be supplied for keeping track of this time. As the holder of an Instruction Permit, you are required to log 20 hours of supervised driving during the time you hold the Instruction Permit. This will help you meet that requirement. This extra practice is also important to help you master the skills discussed in class and performed during the driving sessions. A parent/guardian signature is required at the completion of the 6 hours of driving. You may start logging your drive times for this assignment on June 1.

**Other activities may be assigned as deemed appropriate by the instructor. All assignments must be completed. Late work will receive a 10% deduction.**